

**Amendments to the Specification**

**Page 5, the first full paragraph, lines 6 to 20, replace the paragraph with:**

As illustrated in Fig. 3 an intelligent switch (SW) 301 in place of the storage controller 201 as per Fig. 2 is provided having a front end (host) controller ~~3010~~3011 for interfacing with a channel of a host, a back end controller ~~3011~~3012 for interfacing with the storage device 202 and the disk array 203 and an interconnection apparatus 3014 for interconnecting the front end controller ~~3010~~3011 and back end controller ~~3011~~3012. The back end controller ~~3011~~3012 interfaces to the primary volume 103 and the local secondary volume 109. The front end controller ~~2010~~3011 includes mapping tables ~~3010~~3010 having stored therein mapping information for mapping virtual volumes to the storage device 202 or the disk array 203. Particularly the mapping tables ~~3010~~3010 set relationships between virtual volume block address and actual block address on the storage device 202 or the disk array 203. As described above the primary volume 103 is defined on a plurality of disk devices 2020 included in the storage device 202 and the local secondary volume 104 is defined on a plurality of disk drives 2030 included in the disk array 203.